

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An audio conditioning apparatus for conditioning an audio signal to be output, said audio conditioning apparatus comprising:

an input for receiving the audio signal;

5 a noise characterizing unit for determining a noise level of environmental noise;

a volume amplification unit coupled to said input for amplifying a volume of the audio signal by a volume gain in dependence on the noise level;

10 a further noise characterizing unit for determining a further noise level of the environmental noise in a bass frequency noise band or a treble frequency noise band; and

a further amplification unit coupled to said volume amplification unit for amplifying by a further gain the amplitude
15 of frequency components in a bass frequency audio band or a treble frequency audio band of the audio signal, in dependence of the further noise level in the base or treble frequency band, respectively,

20 wherein said noise characterizing unit determines said noise level of environmental noise based in a mid frequency noise band of said environmental noise, said mid frequency noise band being complementary to said base frequency noise band and said treble frequency noise band.

_____ and wherein said audio conditioning apparatus further
25 comprises:

a gain dispatcher unit coupled to said input for
allocating a maximum allowable gain of the volume amplification
unit and the further amplification unit on the basis of available
headroom for amplification.

2. (Previously Presented) The audio conditioning apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, wherein an upper limit of the bass frequency
audio band substantially lies in the range of 60 to 150 Hz, and
wherein a lower limit of the treble frequency audio band
5 substantially lies in the range of 8kHz to 12 kHz.

3. (Previously Presented) The audio conditioning apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio conditioning apparatus
further comprises:

a gain consistency unit coupled to said noise
5 characterizing unit and said further noise characterizing unit for
yielding a gain consistently varying in time, according to a
predetermined mathematical criterion.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Previously Presented) The audio conditioning apparatus as
claimed in claim 1, wherein the further amplification unit
comprises a shelving filter.

6. (Previously Presented) The audio conditioning apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said audio conditioning apparatus is connectable to a headphone loudspeaker usable for reproduction of the audio signal, and wherein said audio conditioning apparatus
5 further comprises an active noise canceling unit for substantially cancelling environmental noise in a cancellation band of frequencies, the environmental noise being measurable by a microphone.

7. (Previously Presented) The audio conditioning apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein said audio conditioning apparatus further comprises a distance measuring device for measuring a distance between the microphone and the headphone loudspeaker.

8. (Previously Presented) An audio reproduction apparatus, comprising:

a loudspeaker for reproduction of an audio signal;
an access to an input audio signal on which the audio
5 signal is based; and
the audio conditioning apparatus as claimed in claim 1.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of conditioning an audio signal comprising the steps of:

determining a noise level of environmental noise;

amplifying a volume of the audio signal by a volume gain
5 in dependence on the noise level;

determining a further noise level of the environmental
noise in a bass frequency noise band or a treble frequency noise
band; and

amplifying frequency components in a bass frequency audio
10 band or a treble frequency audio band of the audio signal by a
further gain in dependence of the further noise level in the bass
frequency noise band or the treble frequency noise band,
respectively,

_____ wherein said step of determining a noise level of
15 environmental noise is based on a mid frequency noise band of the
environmental noise, said mid frequency noise band being
complementary to said bass frequency noise band and said treble
frequency noise band,

_____ and wherein said method further comprises the step of:
20 allocating a maximum allowable gain of said amplifying
steps on the basis of available headroom for amplification.

10. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium containing a
computer program product enabling a processor to execute the method
as claimed in claim 9.